

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 19-24 are pending in this application, with Claims 19, 21, and 23 being independent. Claims 1-18 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 19-24 are newly presented. Applicants submit that support for the new claims can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 9-12 have been canceled, and new Claims 23 and 24 were formulated with due consideration given to the Examiner's comments. Those claims recite a computer-readable medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform a certain method, and Applicants submit that such claims define statutory subject matter. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-10 and 12-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato (U.S. Patent 6,141,111). Claims 3, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato as applied to Claims 1, 5 and 9 above, and further in view of Kondoh et al. (U.S. Patent 6,968,058 B1). Applicants submit that these rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of those claims. Moreover, Applicants submit that new Claims 19-24 are patentable over that cited art for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 19, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of a control unit that classifies an image file into a first group if authentication data included in the image file has been generated using a private key cryptosystem and

classifies the image file into a second group if the authentication data included in the image file is generated using a public key cryptosystem, wherein the control unit displays an indication of whether or not the image data included in the image file has been altered in a display area corresponding to the first group if the image file is classified in a first group and displays it in a display area corresponding to the second group if the image file is classified in the second group. Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features.

In particular, Applicants submit that Kato fails to disclose or suggest at least the claimed control unit that classifies an image file into a first group if authentication data included in the image file has been generated using a private key cryptosystem or classifies the image file into a second group if the authentication data included in the image file has been generated using a public key cryptosystem. Further, Applicants submit that Kondoh likewise fails to disclose or suggest that feature and, even if considered together with Kato, fails to render obvious the present invention recited in Claim 19.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in independent Claim 19 is patentable over the art of record.

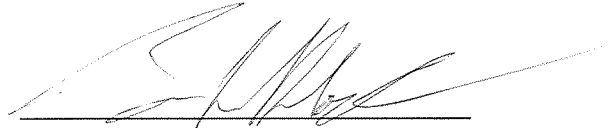
Independent Claims 21 and 23 recite features similar to those of Claim 19 discussed above. Those claims are believed to be patentable for reasons similar to Claim 19.

The dependent claims are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

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